



30th June 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

GCSE English Literature Texts

As you will know, your child is currently at the midway point in their GCSE courses and as they begin the final part of the journey, I wanted to communicate some important information relating to the remainder of this term and Term 1 in September.

Firstly, during the Mock Exam period before the summer holidays, all students will sit Language Paper 2 in its entirety; preparations are well underway in their way in lessons and students are also encouraged to supplement their learning using the Google Classrooms and Seneca.

As well as this, students will begin preparations for their GCSE English Language Spoken Endorsement. For this assessment, students are expected to write and deliver a speech, on a topic of their choosing and subsequently answer questions; all of this must be audio and visually recorded for submission to the Exam Board in February 2024.

Due to the large cohort of students, these recordings will take place in timetable lessons to reduce the impact upon the rest of their studies. If a student has a relevant medical exemption, this will be taken into account and the delivery of their speech will be organised outside of lesson time with their class teacher, however, it will still need to take place in front of a small audience.

If students do not sit the GCSE English Language Spoken Endorsement aspect of the GCSE course, they cannot be awarded a GCSE English Language grade. The endorsement is graded separately from GCSE English Language with the gradings being Not Classified, Pass, Merit or Distinction. This grading will be recorded on their GCSE English Language Certificate.

In September, Year 11 will begin the study of their final GCSE Literature text, 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare. As previously communicated in a letter last year, we decided the best edition of the text that will aid learning in the classroom and at home is The Cambridge School's edition of 'Romeo and Juliet' (ISBN 9781107615403). This can be bought through multiple retailers online. We will have some copies for students to use in the classroom, however, having their own copy to annotate and use at home is vital for their understanding of the text.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Merrick

Curriculum Leader of English

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